

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, August 14, 2012
Executive Session – 7:00pm
Open Session – 8:00pm

1. **Convene Meeting** – Chair, Mrs. Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 7:04 pm.
 - a. *Roll Call* – Chair called for roll call: Mrs. Swanson, Chair, Ms. Pezza, Vice-Chair & Mrs. Fountain, member, were all present. Also present was Dr. Davida Irving, superintendent/Principal, Greg Piccirilli, Legal Counsel, and Mrs. McCullough, FSC secretary.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited.
2. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC **voted to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Essential Support Personnel, Foster Teachers Association.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

The FSC reconvened to Open Session on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson stated that Collective Bargaining and Litigation for the Essential Support Personnel and Foster Teachers Association and Litigation were discussed.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to “seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

3. **Public Comment** – there was no public comment.
4. **Building Use Requests** – there were no Building Use Requests.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to accept the Open Session minutes for June 12, 2012. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to accept the Executive Session minutes of June 12, 2012. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain - no

6. Approval of Warrants

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve the warrant of June 16, 2012 for \$40,112.89. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no, explaining that her ‘no’ vote was for lack of detail of legal fee services as requested in the past.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve a warrant dated June 23, 2012 for \$5000.00 + \$264,369.00. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

On a motion by Ms. Pezza to accept the warrant for \$500.00 failed due to no second. This will be a future agenda item.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to accept the warrant dated August 2, 2012 for \$56,831.94 for the 2012-2013 school year. There was no discussion. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson- yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to accept the warrant dated August 2, 2012 for \$131,856.03 for the 2012-2013 school year. There was no discussion. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

- a. *Business Manager's Report* – Mr. Moore was not available to discuss the report. Dr. Irving reported that Mr. Moore indicated a small surplus of less than \$10,000. Mrs. Swanson stated that the FSC had established a long time ago with Mr. Moore a specific format for the Business Manager report and that was not received this month and there was an expectation that they would. Mrs. Fountain stated that the FSC does not have the final end of year UCOA report, which was also requested.

7. Old Business (for discussion/action) – there was none.

8. New Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *Essential Support Personnel – Custodial Hours* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve Dr. Irving's recommendation to the FSC the reduction of the part-time night custodian to twenty hours a week. No discussion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- b. *OPEB* – Kelly Russ, Foster Town Treasurer, presented the FSC with the future of setting up a fund called “self-insured fund” which would allocate future dollars for pension benefits. Discussion followed.
- c. *Resignation, Appointments, Leaves of Absences* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve Dr. Irving's recommendation to appoint four (4) part-time (under twenty (20) hours per week) teacher assistants (para-professionals) Kecia Pierce, Patricia Lessard, Maureen Botelho and Danielle Williams for special education. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

Mrs. Fountain stated she always supports the needs of special needs students. She believes that the school has the required personnel at this time employed with the school department who can provide the support to those two new students and can do it extremely well because the school department has the most experienced and tenured teacher assistants' population in the school.

Mrs. Swanson stated that the FSC did their budgeting last year in November and the FSC had discussions about staffing and what was and wasn't necessary and the FSC didn't hire excessive staff for what we knew our current needs to be this year and now we have discovered since that budgeting process that the school has two new children coming in who have needs above and beyond what we were needing last year and budgeted for this year and in her opinion this requires additional support.

The FSC requested a report from the superintendent on what other districts have for teacher assistants.

Ms. Pezza requested that in addition to the report for what other districts have for teacher assistants, Dr. Irving also include in the report CIPS teacher assistants and what their jobs require of them.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve Dr. Irving's recommendation for a request of "leave of absence" from Mrs. Jones, Music Teacher for two (2) months with no pay. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approved the Superintendent's recommendation for a one year leave of absence without pay for personal and professional reasons by Marianne Adams, School Nurse Teacher. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no because it is not in the best interest of the students.

- d. *Technology* – Dr. Irving reported the Dr. Steven Du is working as the tech coordinator as a consultant at \$150/day for two and a half (2 1/5) days per week. There are no benefits or contract.
- e. *Request for Information Form* – FSC discussed the information form.
- f. *Bullying Policy* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to adopt the State of Rhode Island bullying policy, plus the FSD Bullying Policy as a first reading. Discussion followed. Both FSC members withdrew their motions. On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC adopted the State of Rhode Island Bullying Policy and FSC Policy 5131.3 will be reworked to come into conformance with the State Bullying Policy. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- g. *Home Schooling Request(s)* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the home schooling request of O'Connor the family and the Wilbur family. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- h. *Residency Policy – review* – on a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Superintendent to explore being pro-active in our proof of residency. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- i. *Building Use Fees – Review of Costs* – on a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to table this item. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- j. *YMCA – After School Care* – Dr. Irving reported that she is looking into the possibility of the YMCA providing after-school care.

- k. *Building and Maintenance* – Mr. McGovern reported that work is steady for repairs in the fifth grade wing. One bid was received and it was extremely high. Dr. Irving did seek legal advice to move forward and negotiate with the company for the one bid.

9. **Communication/Reports**

- a. *Correspondence* – was included in the FSC packets.
- b. *Superintendent's Report*
 - 1) Variance – Dr. Irving reported that the bus variance was approved by R.I.D.E. for the second year for no monitors.
 - 2) Open House – will take place on the second evening of school in order for parents to get a better feel for their children's teachers and what will be expected. Kindergarten parents will come to a Kindergarten Open House on August 23rd.
 - 3) Kindergarten - Student enrollment is up with 274 students registered. Kindergarten is at 46 at this time.
 - 4) Teachers will return August 28th and Dr. Irving has scheduled a professional development for that day also.
 - 5) Parent volunteers painted the inside of the building during summer recess.
 - 6) Dr. Irving requested another August meeting for appointments for reading specialist, temporary music teacher and school nurse-teacher approval. The FSC scheduled a meeting for August 28th.
- c. *Building and Grounds Report* – reported earlier.
- d. *Future Agenda Items* –
 - Spending freeze – Mrs. Swanson
 - Bid heating pipes – Mrs. Swanson
 - Business manager's report (end of year UCOA) – Ms. Pezza
 - Disclosure of how \$32865.00 out of district line item was spent this last year – Mrs. Fountain
 - Legal Services – Mrs. Fountain
 - Heating Oil Update – Mrs. Fountain
 - Swamp Meadow Theater Contract with the FSC – Mrs. Fountain

- 10. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to adjourn at 9:43 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

11.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee